

CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Child Support Services is a nationwide program established by Congress in 1975 to ensure that both parents support their children to the extent of their ability. In Montgomery County the program is administered by Social Services. The federal legislation mandating the Child Support Program is Title IV-D of the Social Security Act. Sometimes, the program is called the IV-D (4-D) program.

Montgomery County Child Support Enforcement is located at the DSS Office in Troy, North Carolina 27371. (This is behind Montgomery County Courthouse.) The mailing address is Drawer N, Troy, North Carolina 27371. The phone number is (910) 576-6531.

Services can be provided to any North Carolina parent or custodian regardless of income level. Individuals receiving Work First Family Assistance and Medicaid are automatically referred to the local child support enforcement agency. Persons receiving public assistance are required to cooperate with child support enforcement as a condition of their eligibility for assistance. Persons not receiving public assistance may apply for and receive child support services upon the payment of a \$10.00 or \$25.00 application fee, based on income guidelines from the Federal Register. This includes aunts, uncles, grandparents, court-appointed guardians, or others who are caring for a child.

Basic Services are provided:

- Location of Absent Parent
- Establishment of Paternity
- Establishment of Legal Child Support Order
- Collection of Child Support Payments

Location of Absent Parent:

The Montgomery County DSS Child Support Enforcement Unit can help locate the non-custodial parent who is absent from the home and has a financial obligation to support children. Child support staff uses local, state, and federal sources to find a non-custodial parent such as NC Department of Driver's Licenses, NC Department of Motor Vehicles, NC Employment Security Commission, NC Department of Corrections, NC Vital Statistics, Federal Inmate Locator, NC Employment Security Commission, and the Wildlife Commission.

Paternity:

Paternity means fatherhood. Establishing paternity means a person named as the father of a child has been legally determined to be the father. Establishment of paternity is necessary only when the mother is not married to the father of the child. Paternity must be determined legally before a child support order can be established. This activity is important since both parents have a right and a need to know that they have contributed to the future development of their child.

Identity: We all have a basic need to know who we are and who our family members are. By knowing both parents we have a better understanding of our own identity and past. Establishing paternity will help to strengthen a child's emotional growth by providing an added sense of security as well as aiding in the child's social and psychological development.

Medical: Your child needs to be aware of his parents' medical history. This is important as your child may have inherited diseases or disorders which may not be detected at birth or in childhood.

Benefits: Your child has the right to benefits from both parents. These may include Social Security, insurance benefits inheritance rights, Veteran's and other types of benefits. Your child may not receive these from his father unless paternity has been legally acknowledged or established.

Money: The law requires that both parents provide for the financial needs of their child. By receiving assistance from both parents a child's chances for success are greatly improved.

Fathers as well as mothers have the right to know their child and a responsibility to support them.